

**CLAIMS:**

We claim:

1. An apparatus to align the mouth of a sample container with the sample needles of a sample device, said apparatus comprising:

5 a sleeve guide; and,

a guidance ring,

wherein said mouth of said sample container is held in alignment with said sample needles by said guidance ring.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:  
10 alignment means for aligning said guidance ring in said sleeve guide.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said sleeve guide comprises:  
a cylinder having a cylinder wall, a first end, a second end, and an inside diameter and a  
15 top.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said guidance ring comprises:  
an annulus having an annulus wall, an inside diameter and an outside diameter; and,  
at least two diametrically opposed tabs attached to said outside diameter of said guidance  
ring,

wherein said inside diameter of said guidance ring is dimensioned to securely hold said mouth of said sample container and said outside diameter of said guidance ring is dimensioned to  
20 slidably fit inside said sleeve guide.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said tabs comprise bolts threaded into holes in said outside diameter of said annulus wall of said guidance ring.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said alignment means includes at least two diametrically opposed slots cut in said cylinder wall of said sleeve guide, starting at said first end of said sleeve guide and ending at said second end of said sleeve guide, to accept said tabs of said guidance ring,

5 wherein said tabs on said guidance ring slide in said slots in said sleeve guide so that said guidance ring may slide inside said sleeve guide from said first end of said sleeve guide to said second end of said sleeve guide to move said sample container into contact with said sample needle.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising:

10 a mounting means on said top of said sleeve guide whereby said sleeve guide may be attached to said sample device and said sample needles extend into said sleeve guide.